

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION (NASA)

Statement of Regulatory Priorities

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) aim is to increase human understanding of the solar system and the universe that contains it and to improve American aeronautics ability. NASA's basic organization consists of the Headquarters, nine field Centers, the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (a federally funded research and development center), and several component installations which report to Center Directors. Responsibility for overall planning, coordination, and control of NASA programs is vested in NASA Headquarters, located in Washington, DC.

NASA continues to implement programs according to its 2018 Strategic Plan. The Agency's mission is to "Lead an innovative and sustainable program of exploration with commercial and international partners to enable human expansion across the solar system and bring new knowledge and opportunities back to Earth. Support growth of the Nation's economy in space and aeronautics, increase understanding of the universe and our place in it, work with industry to improve America's aerospace technologies, and advance American leadership." The FY 2018 Strategic Plan (available at https://www.nasa.gov/sites/default/files/atoms/files/nasa_2018_strategic_plan.pdf) guides NASA's program activities through a framework of the following four strategic goals:

- Strategic Goal 1: Expand human knowledge through new scientific discoveries.
- Strategic Goal 2: Extend human presence deeper into space and to the Moon for sustainable long-term exploration and utilization.
- Strategic Goal 3: Address national challenges and catalyze economic growth.
- Strategic Goal 4: Optimize capabilities and operations.

NASA's Regulatory Philosophy and Principles

The Agency's rulemaking program strives to be responsive, efficient, and transparent. NASA adheres to the general principles set forth in Executive Order 12866, "Regulatory Planning and Review." NASA is a signatory to the Federal Acquisition Regulatory (FAR) Council. The FAR at 48 CFR chapter 1 contains procurement regulations that apply to NASA and other Federal agencies. Pursuant to 41 U.S.C. section 1302 and FAR 1.103(b), the FAR is jointly prepared, issued, and maintained by the Secretary of

Defense, the Administrator of General Services, and the Administrator of NASA, under their several statutory authorities

NASA is also mindful of the importance of international regulatory cooperation, consistent with domestic law and U.S. trade policy, as noted in Executive Order 13609, "Promoting International Regulatory Cooperation" (May 1, 2012). NASA, along with the Departments of State, Commerce, and Defense, engage with other countries in the Wassenaar Arrangement, Nuclear Suppliers Group, Australia Group, and Missile Technology Control Regime through which the international community develops a common list of items that should be subject to export controls. NASA has also been a key participant in interagency efforts to overhaul and streamline the U.S. Munitions List and the Commerce Control List. These efforts help facilitate transfers of goods and technologies to allies and partners while helping prevent transfers to countries of national security and proliferation concerns.

NASA Priority Regulatory Actions

NASA is highlighting one priority in this agenda and a short summary is provided below.

Procedures for Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

NASA is revising its policy and procedures for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations. These proposed amendments would update procedures contained in the Agency's current regulation at 14 CFR subpart 1216.3, Procedures for Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act, to incorporate updates based on the Agency's review of its Categorical Exclusions and streamline the NEPA process to better support NASA's evolving mission.

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